
ARENA REPORT

Volume II, Number 7

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WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
Saturday, December 2, 1989
Lakeland Civic Center
Lakeland, FL

No rest for the weary. Hello again people and welcome to another edition of what everyone affectionately calls "AR". It's only been a week since you last heard from me. (You lucky people.) Unreal what can happen in a week. Kicking off this ish we have the Lakeland report, followed by the PWF card in O-Town, the Evan Ginzburg annual awards, and the usual correspondent reports and letters. Let's not forget my "Ramblings".

Next issue will be cover dated 12/17 and it'll emanate from Ed Graham Complex with the PWF. Vince is not running in the area until the "Royal Rumble" on 1/21 as he's pushing that show hard. No doubt it will sell out well before the day of the show. I don't ever want to hear the NWA say that Florida is dead for wrestling. Central Florida sure isn't. You just have to know how to promote. Turner's people should look that word up in a dictionary. The first issue in January (no date yet) will have the introduction of a new column done by my most fervent letter writer. (Gives it away right there.) He'll hopefully do a column the first issue of every month. And before he turns me down, I'll stop right there.

"Arena Report" is published twice per month at the cost of 75¢ per issue. A number appears at the top indicating (Thanks Jimmy Joe Jr. I was always looking for a better way to say that.) how many issues you have left on your subscription. (Actually, it was pretty simple minded for me to come up with that way of saying it. So Terry Funk insults me every week, so what.) All renewals, match reports, letters, and hate mail may be sent to Ron Lemieux, 370 Lake Tahoe Ct. #102 Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. I will include my new address in my next issue. That address will take effect Jan. 2. I hope. Without any further adieu, Cheryl, myself, Bruce Ginevan, and Michele (last name unknown, how about future Ginevan.) piled into the car and headed to Lakeland. Ding, Ding.

Opening Match

Paul Roma beat Barry Horowitz in 15:45 with a dropkick from the top rope. Roma was a sub for Hillbilly. I was thankful at first but Jim couldn't have performed much worse. I've seen these two do better. On second thought, Hillbilly would have gotten a sub zero grade. ½*

2nd Match

Jimmy Snuka downed Bad News Brown with the superfly splash at 7:10. The beer belly share croppers weren't into this match at all. Snuka looked horrible and his barking has to go. Dud for the splash, otherwise - stars.

WWF Tag Team Championship

Andre the Giant & Haku beat Demolition via count out in 9:20. Who came up with this combination? What a strange pairing. Why is Haku colossal? Most of match saw Heenan's duo (he was here) work over

Ax. Smash got the hot tag and went to work. As he bounded off the ropes after Haku, Andre pulled the middle rope down and Smash fell over the top rope. Yes, Andre screwed up, he probably couldn't reach the top rope. The guy can barely move anymore. I'll use Cheryl's word-Pitiful. *

4th Match

Bret Hart pinned Honkey Tonk Man in 10:43. Jimmy Hart got on the ring apron and distracted Hart. As Bret went after the mouth, HTM came a charging but Bret moved and the two heels collided. "Hit Man" scored the pin. Bad. Dud

5th Match

Tugboat Thomas used a big splash to dispose of Conquistador #1 in 5:48. A few fans in Florida knew it was Steeleman. But no one cared. This guy is as bad as Fred Ottman, Steeleman, and Big Bubba all in one. Oh, you mean it's the same guy? -*

Main Event

Randy Savage beat Hacksaw Duggan in 9:41. I had to see this twice in one week. Cruel and unusual punishment. There was a ref bump and Hack went for a pin but no ref. Sherri slipped in the purse and Randy used it but Duggan kicked out at two. Good false finish. Savage then took a trick out of Martel's book and scooped Duggan's legs and used the buckles for leverage. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

Final Match

Roddy Piper beat Rick Rude via dq in 9:27. Very disappointing. Lots of comedy by Roddy. Rude pushed the ref for dq when he went after Roddy with a chair. *

NOTES: Attendance was 4,800. Below par for Lakeland. This was the worst card I've seen in a while. The PWF does better than this... No return announced but they plugged the Rumble again. Vince will go dark in this area until that PPV show is over.

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA

Sunday, December 3, 1989

Eddie Graham Sports Stadium

Orlando, FL

Opening Match

Jimmy Backlund beat Mike Awesome in 12:53. "Gigolo" Jim takes backdrops like Lee Scott. Unreal height. Jimmy tried an Oklahoma roll but muffed it. He still got the pin. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

Florida Tag Team Championship

Lou Perez & Tommy Rogers downed the Bounty Hunters on a disqualification at 14:29. Rogers looked great. Super dropkicks and a nice power-slam on Parker. All four were in the ring when Hunter Al Greene kept pushing ref Micky Jay for the dq. $*\frac{1}{2}$

3rd Match

Mike Awesome pinned Grizzly Bear Ray in 5:48. Match was supposed to be Brickhouse (no showed) vs. Jumbo Berreta (needed later in card). Grizzly was one of the arena workers. Get the lady selling tickets in the ring next. Awesome rolled up the doughboy after a missed charge in the corner. -***** I could keep going.

Florida Heavyweight Championship-No DQ

Steve Keirn retained the title pinning Ron Slinker in 5:09. It was a cold night here in Florida and with the Stadium having all their doors open, it was freezing in here. Keirn bled early. When he was laying prone on the mat, Backlund ran out, got on the top rope and came down with a legdrop that missed. Lou Perez ran in and piledrove Slinker and Keirn pinned him. Ref couldn't do anything, no DQ. *

Bunkhouse Tag Team Match

Mike Graham & Bugsy McGraw beat Blackjack Mulligan & Jumbo Beretta in 6:14. These guys didn't want to work in the cold. Jumbo was a sub for the departed Kendall Windham (see "Ramblings"). Beretta was holding Bugsy and B.J. wound up with the boot but McGraw ducked and Jumbo got clobbered. Bugsy scored the pin. Graham & Mulligan did some decent brawling outside but this whole card was just too short. * Att: 144

Ramblings

Like I said, alot can happen in a week. I guess the big news is the folding up of the Continental Wrestling Federation. They will run their house shows that were booked through the end of the month and that's it. Money ran dry.... Cactus Jack already has a new employer as he started with the NWA at the Center Stage tapings last week. He teamed with another jobber against the Steiners and after they lost, he beat the other guy up. Cactus deserved a shot and he's got one. Way to go... Kendall Windham has also got a job with Turner. He'll most likely be Tully Blanchard's replacement... Brickhouse Brown to work for PWF through the holidays and then he and Iceman will hook up in World Class or they may get a stint at Titan as the Blackbirds as the two sides have been talking. Vince needs some heel teams and I can see a good feud with the Rockers... There's talk that Sid Vicious will not be ready for Starcade which would be a big blow as they will use Nitron (Woman's bodyguard) as a replacement... Adrian Street & Kokina were at the tapings in Pensacola for the NWA. Adrian just as a visitor but Kokina doing some job hunting. He was probably told they have enough Samoans... Big Boss Man vs. Hacksaw Duggan added to the Royal Rumble undercard. The Garvin- Valentine match will be a submission match. Am I supposed to care now... You could see where Butch Reed blew out his knee on the Power Hour when they wrestled the Steiners. The guy was in pain... There was a big article on Ed Gantner in the Orlando Sentinel this past Saturday. He was being pushed pretty hard in Florida about three years ago with Luger. He was just about to get his shot with the NWA when he dropped off the face of the earth. Apparently he had kidney problems and had to retire. A year ago he almost died due to kidney failure. Ten days ago he received a kidney transplant from his sister. The reason the article was in the paper was due to him being a former football player for the University of Central Florida.. I didn't catch it on the first run SNME but on the syndies they showed the dressing room interview when Mr. Perfect was hammering the title belt. Mean Gene called him Curt Hennig. I bet Vince gave him hell for that one. Don't you know his paycheck is made out to "Mr. Perfect"?... The two guests in Brother Love at the Rumble will be Sherri and Juanita who is Dusty's new valet. You know, the one at ringside. They're setting up Dusty-Savage at Wrestlemania... It's only a matter of time before we see Dustin in the WWF, isn't it... For those of you in New England, I'll be on Cody Boynes radio show out of Providence taking phone calls from 7-8 o'clock. The station is WALE and it's 990 AM on the dial. And Dan, don't call to try and stump me.... By the way, that is a wrestling radio show.... Greg Yarman of 1068 Britlain Rd., Akron, OH 44305 is looking for someone to tape Florida wrestling. Write to him and work out a deal.

Evan Ginzburg's 1989 Year End WWF Awards

- Poetry in slow motion award- Akeem (nobody's dream)
- Let's play a tape of their matches and get a great night's sleep award- Bore-us Zhukov, Hercules, Jim Neidhart, and Brutus Barfbag.
- "You mean we never get to win?" Great Career Move Awards- Al Perez and Tim Horner.
- Does he own the ring or something award- To perpetually pushed mediocrity Dino Bravo.
- I sure hope they're in the WWF another 37 years award- To burnt out veterans Greg Valentine & Tito Santana.
- Why am I trying when everyone else is in a coma award- The Rockers, Randy Savage, and Roddy Piper.
- "How come I'm pretty and they turned me into a dog." award- Scary Sherri
- A requiem for a Heavyweight (or, They turned a great athlete into a buffon award.) - Terry "Poultry in motion" Taylor.
- Adolph Hitler propaganda award- Vince McMahon for brainwashing millions of people into believing his product is superior to "that other league down south."
- "We use to be a great tag team but now we're in the WWF so we don't try anymore award- The Bushwhackers
- How come the bulletin readers think they're great when almost all their matches suck? award - Hart Foundation
- Ku Klux Klan favorite stereotype award- Slick
- I remember you 50 pounds ago award- Dusty Rhodes and Mr. Fuji
- They don't make heads like that anymore award- Andre the Giant
- "I use to be world champion but now I'm just another yo-yo- "Ruined Ronnie Garvin & Rick Martel
- Probably won't live to see forty so he better enjoy himself now award- Anabolic Warrior.
- Take the money and run award- Hulk (Let's keep it short.) Hogan
- Wake up in the morning and thank God he's not in the WWF award- Ric Flair
- I really, truly hope most americans DON'T identify with him award- Hacks Duggan
- Ron knows more holds than that guy and he's never even been in the ring award- Zeus

(Editor's note- Before I catch hell from all the WWF diehards out there, I welcome your rebuttals and a 1989 Year End NWA Awards. Don't say I didn't give you a chance. These are all Evan's opinions and not your trusty ed.)

Correspondent Reports

Dorton Arena

Raleigh, NC

November 21, 1989

Correspondent: Mike Gunter

1) New Zealand Militia beat Brad Anderson & Trent Knight in 10 minutes when Jacko pinned Trent. C- 2) Tom Zenk put Bob Emory to sleep at 8 minutes. Dud 3) Mike Rotunda used the ropes for leverage to defeat Norman the Lunatic in 9:00. C- 4) Hawk beat Dan Spivey via DQ when Teddy Long hit the roadie with a chair in 9:00. C 5) Samoan Swat Team & Samoan Savage downed the three man team of Ranger Ross, Tommy Rich, & Eddie Gilbert as Samu pinned Ross. Good action. B- 6) Rick Steiner pinned Ron "Doom" Simmons when Nitron's interference backfired. C 7) Midnight Express over the Dynamic Dudes as Bobby pinned Shane after a Corny racquet attack. B 8) Lex Luger and Sting went to a double count out at 14:00 as they fought back to the dressing room. Good match but weak ending. C - 9) Ric Flair over Great Muta via DQ as Luger interfered. Lots of hot moves and good action. B Att: 2,000 Reed, Vicious, and Pillman all no shows due to injury.

Memorial Hall

Kansas City, KS

November 23, 1989

Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

1) Ric McCord beat Mike Blackhart in 13:00 with a cradle. 2) Doug Button over T.C. Carter via over top rope DQ in 12:08. Button a newcomer and very green. 3) Rufus Jones (this guy must be close to 60) beat Bobby Jagers in 10:00 with the freight train. 4) Akio Sato defeated Steve Sawy at 12:18. Real good match. 5) Steve Ray and Curtis Hughes went to a draw. 6) Bruce's favorite wrestler Bulldog Bob Brown lost via dq to Mike George after 14:00 of brawling. Brown played face but not with Mr. Grummert. Brown had heated exchanges once again with Mr. Bruce. 7) Little Tokyo beat Shaka in a midget match. 8) Rufus Jones won a twelve man battle royal that went 10:00. Att:328

Baltimore Arena

Baltimore, MD

November 25, 1989

Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

1) New Zealand Militia downed Trent Knight & Brad Anderson as Victory pinned Trent. D 2) Mike Rotunda used the ropes to pin Norman. F 3) Tom Zenk pinned Michael Hayes. C 4) Animal downed Dan Spivey via pinfall. C 5) Ric Flair beat Great Muta via dq as Gary Hart interfered. Ole Anderson got involved and then Luger came in. Sting joined the fray and they had a good brawl. B 6) Midnight Express beat the Dudes in the same finish with Cornette and the racquet. C 7) Lex Luger beat Sting via over top rop call. B 8) Doom beat the Steiners via dq. Rick got hurt early in the match so Scott worked alone until Rick ran in near the end and got disqualified. C 9) SST & Samoan Savage downed Ranger Ross, Eddie Gilbert, & Tommy Rich as Samu pinned Ross. F

WEDU TV Studios

Tampa, FL

November 28, 1989

Correspondent: Bruce Ginevan

This was a PWF TV taping so here goes: Brickhouse Brown beat Scrap Iron.. Tyree Pride beats Ron Slinker via dq as Mark Starr runs in and attacks Tyree. Lou Perez runs in and the four brawl to the back... They do a weightlifting skit with the Bounty Hunters and they throw a challenge to Billy Jack and they basically bury B.J. since he left the area... Buggy McGraw hits Blackjack Mulligan with a pie. How original... Lou Perez beat Mark Starr on dq as Billy Wirtz tripped up Perez... Jimmy Backlund upended Mike Graham when Mike threw Jimmy over the top with a backdrop... Brickhouse beat a masked jobber... Bounty Hunters beat Scrap Iron and another jobber... Next, Wayne Coulter comes out and tells DDP that Mulligan won't be here for his bull rope match with Buggy. So Jumbo Berretta takes his place. During the bout, Mulligan runs in and attacks Buggy with the bullrope and opens McGraw up. Faces run in to make the save... Lou Perez & Tyree Pride beat Ron Slinker & Mark Starr as Wirtz interferes for dq... Bodyguard Mark beats Jimmy Backlund on count out as Backlund leaves the ring protesting that Mark isn't a lightweight. (He was supposed to fight Tommy Rogers who no showed the card)... They had many other interviews and segments on this show. Too many non wrestling related. i.e. Rock and roll bands, alligator wrestlers, concentrate on wrestling will you.

Letter To The EditorG.A.G. ME

From NY Knockout, I quote Rick Steiner talking about Woman: "Well, I had it, and I don't want it!" Could I have it then maybe?

I got to watch my first USWA show in a long time recently, and luckil

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it was the one where Billy Joe Travis spanked Toni Adams. Although shes a bit too old for our Billy Joe, what a great job he did. I wonder where he learned to spank like that? Too bad they digitalized it out on the screen—I sure would have paid good money for ringside seats to see that one.

J.Z. Travis
Woodstock, ONT

RL- Don't be offended by that letter. There's an inside story to it which makes it humorous. My subscribers will start hating me because of you Zingaaaa.

Final Word

Thanks to all who contributed in this issue. We're starting to slack off in the letters department so let's get some in gang okay?... If you haven't tried "Ringside Reflector" which is plugged above, your missing so fun reading. Lots of controversy in that one folks. It's a good deal. Give it a shot... Until 12/17, have fun getting ready for the holidays.

See ya,

Ron